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THE GIFT OF

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

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COVENANT,

WITH A

BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN

HENNIKER, N. H.

AND A LIST OF ALL THOSE, WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AS MEMBERS.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe, that, there is one true God, who is the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, and that he is immutable and infinite in every natural and moral perfection.

Deut. iv. 39. Know, therefore this day, and consider it in thy heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above and upon the earth beneath; there is none else. Rom. i. 20. Ps. xix. 1—3. Isa. xl. 28. xliv. 24. Mal. iii. 6.

II. We believe, that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; and are the only perfect rule of doctrinal belief and religious practice.

2 Tim. iii. 16, 17. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Pet. i. 20, 21. Isa. viii. 20.

III. We believe, that God is revealed in the scriptures as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one in essence and equal in every attribute and honor.

Mat. xxviii.—19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. John x. 30. and v. 23. 1 Cor. xii. 4—13. Acts v. 34. 1 John v. 7.

IV. We believe, that known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world, and that he orders all things after the counsel of his own will.

Acts xv. 18. Eph. i. 2. Acts xvii. 26. And hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitations.—xiii. 48. And as many as were ordained to eternal life, believed. 1 Pet. ii. 8. Whereunto also, they were appointed. Acts ii. 23.—iv. 27—28. Luke xxii. 22.

V. We believe, that the law and government of God are holy, just and good; and that all rational beings are ever bound to love and honor them.

Rom. vii. 12. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Mat. v. 17—20. xiii. 23. Ps. xix. 7—11.

VI. We believe, that God at first created man in his own image, in a state of holiness; but man fell from that state by eating the forbidden fruit.

Gen. i. 27. God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him. Gen. iii. 6. Eccl. vii. 29.

VII. We believe, that in consequence of the sin of Adam, all his posterity are by nature wholly sinful, and are exposed to the just and everlasting displeasure of God.

Gen. vi. 5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen. viii. 21. Rom. v. 12—19. Eccl. viii. 11. ix. 3. Rom. i. 18. ii. 3—12. Ps. xlix. 8.

VIII. We believe, that according to the purposes and predictions of God, the Son took unto himself human nature, and by his obedience, sufferings and death made a full atonement for sin; and now offers salvation to all, on condition of repentance and faith.

Phil. ii. 6, 7. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. Gal. iv. 4. John i. 14. Isa. liii. 5. 2 Cor. v. 21. Mat. xi. 28. Acts iii. 19. xvi, 31. Mark xvi. 16. Isa. lv. 6, 7. John iii. 36.

IX. We believe, that such is the sinfulness of human nature, that none come to Christ for salvation, till God draws them by the special influence of the Holy Spirit.

John v. 40. And ye will not come unto me that ye might have life. Isa. lix. 2. John vi. 44 and 63. Zech. iv. 6. Titus iii. 5. Gal. i. 15, 16.

X. We believe, that repentance, faith and salvation are therefore the gift of God; and the sinner is saved by grace.

Acts v. 31. xi. 18. Eph. ii. 8.

XI. We believe, that all, who truly embrace the gospel, were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love; and they are saved, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth; being justified freely for Christ's sake, through faith in him.

2 Thes. ii. 13. But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth. Eph. i. 4. 1 Pet. i, 2. John vi. 37. Rom. viii. 28—39. Acts xiii. 38—39.

XII. We believe, that the eternal purposes of God include the regeneration, perseverance in holiness, and salvation of all who are saved; and the final condemnation of all those, who persevere in rejecting the gospel.

John x. 27—29. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand; My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my father's hand. Rom. xi. 29. Phil. i. 6. 1 Pet. i. 5. John iii. 18 and 36. Mark xvi. 16. Ps. xlix. 8. Eph. iii. 11.

XIII. We believe, that Christ has a visible Church in the world, composed of professed believers.

1 Cor. i. 2. Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all, that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours. Acts ix. 31. Gal. iii. 27. 2 Cor. vi. 17, 18. Mat. xvi. 18.

XIV. We believe, that he, as head of the church, has appointed the ordinance of baptism, to be applied to all professed believers and their households; and the Lord's supper, to be administered to all those, who are in regular standing in his church.

Mat. xxviii. 19. Acts ii. 41. viii. 36—38. Mark xvi. 16. Acts xvi. 15. And when she was baptized and her household, she besought us, saying, if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there. Acts xvi. 38. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway. 1 Cor. i. 16. I baptized also the household of Stephanus. Luke xxii. 19—20. 1 Cor. xi. 23—34. Acts xix. 1, 5.

XV. We believe that the regular officers in the church are ministers and deacons.

Acts xiv. 23. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. Titus i. 5. 1 Tim. iii. 1—13. Acts xx. 28. Acts vi. 1—6.

XVI. We believe, that it is appointed unto all men once to die, and then the soul of each one enters upon its final state of happiness or misery.

Gen. iii. 19. Luke xvi. 22, 23. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. Phil i. 21—23. Heb. ix. 27.

XVII. We believe, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust, and that all, who then live will be changed.

Acts xxiv. 15. That there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. John v. 28, 29. 1 Cor. xv. 50—58, or whole chapter.

XVIII. We believe, that God has appointed a day, when all rational creatures shall be assembled before the judgment seat of Christ, and receive their final sentence according to their characters, to everlasting life or to everlasting death.

Acts xvii. 31. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom he hath ordained, Mat. xxv. 31—46. 2 Cor. v. 10. 2 Thes. i. 7—10.

COVENANT.

We now solemnly and explicitly enter into covenant with God, and with one another.

We give up ourselves to God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; choosing the Lord Jehovah as our God; Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, our only Saviour and final Judge; the Holy Spirit as our Guide and Sanctifier; promising by the aid of divine grace to cleave to God as our chief good, to reverence his Sabbath, observe his word and ordinances, honor his name, seek the prosperity of his kingdom, and devote ourselves and our possessions to his service.

We also give up ourselves, one to another, as a church of Christ; promising to attend regularly on the worship of God in publick, in our families and our closets: walking in fellowship one with another, sharing equally as may be the labor and expense of sustaining the rules and discipline, the institutions and ordinances of the church.*

We also promise to watch over one another in love, visiting, exhorting, and admonishing, as occasion requires; not publishing private offences, but carefully following the precepts of Christ—readily forgiving every one, who gives evidence of penitence. Math. xviii. 16, 17.

We further promise to regard the welfare of all men; training up those committed to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; avoiding every appearance of evil, abstaining from evil speaking and the use of ardent spirit as a drink, and endeavoring to prepare for that day, when the light and the spirit of the gospel shall be found with all men.

On account of your thus professing and promising, I, in behalf of the church, receive you as a member, and admit you to the full enjoyment of all its privileges;—promising, through divine grace assisting us, to aid you in the duties of the christian life, by our prayers and fraternal watchfulness; expecting in return the same offices from you, that the purposes of this holy covenant may be secured.

The Lord make us faithful to himself and to each other. AMEN.

NOTE. The following is the substance of several standing rules of the Church.

1. That members shall be voted in one by one.
2. That each candidate shall signify a willingness to share equally with others the expenses of church and society.
3. That members of sister churches moving into town shall be admitted to occasional communion for one year only without satisfactory reasons for further delay in removing their relation.*
4. That those wishing to remove their relation shall be examined by the moderator.†
5. To abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirit as a drink, and to endeavor to discourage the use of it in others; and that all received into the church shall assent to this regulation.‡

*Ch. Rec. Page 38.—Aug. 16, 1816. †Page 32—Nov. 2, 1802. ‡Page 66.—Sept. 1831.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

This church was gathered and Rev. Jacob Rice, a native of Northborough, Mass. and a graduate of Harvard College became its pastor June 7, 1769.—He was dismissed Feb. 1782, but supplied the pulpit occasionally for 20 years afterwards, while the church was destitute of a pastor.

May 26, 1802, Rev. Moses Sawyer, a native of Salisbury, N. H. and a graduate of Dartmouth College was ordained and became the pastor. Previous to that day, it is not known that any more than 55 persons had ever been members of the church; viz. 25 Males and 30 Females, in 33 years.

Mr. Sawyer was dismissed March 29, 1826, having admitted 114 to the church, 39 Males and 75 Females in 24 years.

Rev. Jacob Scales, a native of Freeport, Me. and graduate of Dart. College was installed January 17, 1827.

The year after the church was gathered, a meeting house 30 feet long and 20 feet wide was built of logs without the use of a smoothing plane, and without glass windows. For 10 successive years it was occupied for religious worship and other purposes; then it was burnt and the church and people left without a sanctuary six or seven years. The old meeting house on the south side of the river was built by the town in the year 1786, and occupied by the church and people in peace till 1802, and then the doors were closed against the church and the minister of their choice. After resorting for many months to barns and private houses to hear the word of God, another house was erected, and occupied by the church, and all who chose to assemble with them, till Aug. 23, 1833, when it was burnt with all its contents. The church, being left a fourth time within

64 years without a place of worship, set themselves by prayer and voluntary effort to lay a new foundation and erect another house; which was dedicated Aug. 27, 1834.

A LIST OF MEMBERS.

☞ In the following list the names of the deceased are printed in Italicks; those whose relations to the church has ceased by removal or otherwise are marked with a *

From 1769 to 1802.

Rev. Jacob Rice,
Timothy Ross,
Ezekiel Smith,
Josiah Ward,
Ebenezer Harthorn,
Thomas Howlet,
William Pressbury,
Silas Burns,
Charles Whitcomb,
Amos Gould,
Eliakim Howe,
Nahum Newton,
Francis Bowman,
Solomon Childs,
*Ephraim Goss,
David Clough,
*Samuel Wadsworth,
Daniel Rice,
*Jonathan Wood,
Joshua Whitney,
Joseph Amesden,
Samuel Morrison,
*George Connor,
Aaron Childs,
Jacob Whitcomb,
Rebecca Howe,
Mercy Newton,
Prudence Bowman,
Abigail Campbell,
Rhoda Harthorn,
Patty Childs,
*Ruth Goss,
Susanna Smith,
Sarah Rice,
*Sarah Wood,
Hannah Smith,
*Betty Whitney,
Betty Smith,
*Sally Adams,
Susanna Morrison,
Jane Morrison,
Ruth Smith,
Kesiah Ross,
Margaret Morrison,
Elizabeth Bailey,
*Hannah Connor,
Olive Whitcomb,
Sarah Peters,
Ruth Rice,
*Sarah Ward,
Elizabeth Barns,
Hannah Whitcomb,
Abigail Amesden,
Mary Gould,
*Patty Childs.

1802.

Rev. Moses Sawyer,
*Alexander Parker,
*Jeremiah Dutton,

*Betsey Dutton,
Dinah Gibson,
Susanna Patterson,
Rachel Withington,
Lois Heath,
Hannah Withington.

1803.

Ezekiel Dimond,
Edmund Sawyer,
*John Pearson,
Sarah Eager,
Abigail Dimond,
Mehitable Sawyer,
*Elizabeth Pearson,
Lydia Sargent,
Mary Colby,
Elizabeth Wood,
Abigail Clough,
*Fanny Sawyer,
Mary Stone.

1804.

*William Morrison,
Betsey Wood,
Susanna Conner.

1805.

Josiah Ward,
*Mary Withington,
Elizabeth Ward,
Abigail Smith,
Hannah Whitney,
Sally Colby,
*Lucy Howe.

1806.

Francis Withington.

1807.

Prudence Smith,
Elizabeth Myrick.

1810.

*Benjamin Clough,
Josiah Childs,
*John C. Proctor,
John Proctor.
Susanna Morrill,
Abigail Childs,
Lydia Putney,
Sally Goss,
Sally Butler,
*Persis Gibson,
Edner Proctor,
Betty Wallace.

1811.

Abigail Ramsdel,
Mary Darling,
Sally Gould,
*Azubah Sprague.

1812

*William C. Woodbury,
*Sarah Abbot,
Phebe Howe.

1813.

*Timothy Sprague.

1814.

*Patty Woodbury.

1816.

William Willson,
*David C. Proctor,
*John More,
*Isaac Darling,
*Jacob C. Goss,
Eli Howe,
Thomas M. Davis,
John Fisk,
*Samuel Morrison,
John Connor,
*Annas Goss
*James V. Atkinson,
*Stephen Whitney,
Nathaniel Cogswell,
Phebe Davis,
Mary Connor,
*Hannah Dufer,
*Jane Atkinson,
Lucy Livingston,
Azubah Bowman,
Dorothy Kirk,
Joanna Wadsworth,
Rhoda Temple,
Lucy Gibson,
Hannah Cogswell,
*Susanna Jones.

1817.

Jacob Peters,
Anna Peters,
Gertrude Gould.

1818.

*Josiah Hill,
*Abigail Hill,
Lydia Colby,
*Rebecca Woodbury.

1819.
Seus Sanborn.
1820.
*Cynthia Withington.
1821.
*Stephen Searle.
Betsy R. Wood.
1822.
*Obadiah P. Eaton,
Hannah Peters,
Abigail Baily.
1823.
*Judith Hardy.
1824.
Oliver Pilsbury,
Lewis Gibson,
Solomon Childs, jr.
Titus V. Wadsworth,
*Levi Wood,
John Harthorn, jr.
*Betsy Morrison,
Lucinda Childs,
*Laura Withington,
*Frances M. Patterson,
*Sally Wood,
*Sarah J. Searle,
Mary B. Greenlief,
Lucy Wood,
Sarah Page,
Caroline L. Bartlett.
1825.
Nathan Carter,
Polly Harthorn.
1827.
Nancy B. Scales,
Susan Wadsworth,
Lucy Cogswell.
1828.
Jacob Gordon,
Amasa Graves,
Polly Foster,
Sally C. Putney.
1829.
Elmira A. Brooks.
1830.
Joseph Wadsworth,
Mary P. Darling,
Mary Colby,
Clarissa Gould,
Huldah Cate,
Eunice Ward,
Sally C. Colby,
*Betsy B. Saunders,
*Betsy J. Hoyt,
Lucy Rice.
1831.
Thomas Cogswell,
*Artemas Rogers,
Nathan Sanborn,
James Wilkins,
John Whitcomb,
*Amos Ray,
Josiah Morse,
Abel Connor,
Ephraim Morrill, jr.
Jonathan Cogswell,
Saunders Hoyt,
Levi Colby,
Asa Whitney,
Horace Childs,
William Wood,
John Peters,
Thomas Kirk,
Josiah Childs, jr.
Jabez Wood,
Moses Rice,
Mary Ann Morrison,
Thankful Smith,
Martha Connor,
Susan Connor,
Irene Patten,
Hannah Cogswell,
Sarah Wilkins,
*Nancy Lewis,
Polly Whitcomb,
Olive Wadsworth,
Susan C. Cogswell,
Lydia Whitcomb,
Rosella Childs,
Mary D. Cogswell,
Sally Hoyt,
Emily A. Hoyt,
Lucy Wood,
Lucy Morrill,
Sophrona Bowman,
Margery Carter,
Loisa M. Presbury,
Mary Ann Smith,
Avaline Rice,
Dorothy Wadsworth,

Almeray Wadsworth,
Betsy S. Wadsworth,
*Lydia Rogers,
Hannah Harthorn,
Betsy Colby,
Lydia Gammel,
Lois C. Whitney,
Eliza Peters,
Martha Wood,
Elizabeth B. Kirk,
*Sally M. Whitcomb,
Lucy Morrill, 2d,
Laura Whitcomb.

1832.

Jacob Sawyer,
*William Patterson,
Barak Colby,
*George A. P. Darling,
Levi Rice,
WarrenS. Childs,
Elias Gould,
Carlos Childs,
Worcester Harthorn,
Francis M. Withington,
Joshua Darling,
Laura Sawyer,
Eliza Morrison,
Alice B. Whitney,
Catherine Ray,
*Clarissa Abbot,
Liva Connor,
Elizabeth Darling,
Mehitable Gordon,
Roxy B. Eaton,
Lucinda G. Proctor,
Patty Whitney,
Lucy Colby,
Rebecca Ramsdel,
Catherine Colby,
Apphia Withington,
LizaConnor,
*Zilpha Barns,
Mary Davis,
*Alice G. Lancaster,
Eunice Whitcomb,
Mary Smith,
Elvira Gibson,
Mary G. Patten,
Sarah Peters,
Sally Lowell.

1833.

Zebulon Foster, jr.
Gilbert Pilsbury,
Levi Harthorn,
Parker Pilsbury,
George W. Cogswell,
Lucinda Ring,
Lydia Colby,
Hannah Tucker,
Mary Cochran,
Grizzy D. Rice,
*Susan W. Darling,
Lois Whitney,
Mary L. N. Connor,
Sally Goss.

1834.

Jonathan Quimby,
Washington Berry,
Luther Goss,
Maria Berry,
Betsy Dale,
Anna Pilsbury,
Abigail Proctor,
Anna W. Holmes,
Polly C. Barnes,
Caroline L. Morse,
Mehitable Blanchard,
Lydia Gordon.

1835.—February.

William C. Childs,
Silas Farmer,
Page Eaton,
Betsy B. Morse,
Lydia D. Gibson,
Lydia Myrick,
Prudence H. Myrick,
Lavinia M. Gould,
Abigail A. Cogswell,
Abigail Newton,
Loisa D. Cogswell.

The following persons have been deacons.—Ebenezer Harthorn, William Presbery, Daniel Rice, David Clough, George Connor, William C. Woodbury, Nathaniel Cogswell, Josiah Childs, Oliver Pilsbury.

The last three are the deacons at this time.

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